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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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E.O. 12065 RDS-2 6/8/01 (CONSTABLE, PETER)
TAGS: PINR, MPOL
SUBJECT: ISRAELI GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ON ATTACK AGAINST IRAQI NUCLEAR REACTOR
1. IN ITS "SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT" BROADCAST BY RADIO JERUSALEM AT 1400 GMT ON JUNE 8, THE GOI STATEMENT INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING: RELIABLE SOURCES "HAVE INFORMED US THAT THE REACTOR IS, DESPITE ITS CAMOUFLAGE, MEANT TO PRODUCE ATOMIC BOMBS. THE TARGET FOR THESE BOMBS WAS ISRAEL. THIS HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED EXPLICITLY BY THE RULER OF IRAQ. AFTER THE IRANIANS HAD HIT THE REACTOR SLIGHTLY (ON SEPTEMBER 28, 1980), SADDAM NOTED THAT THE IRANIANS' ATTACK WAS USELESS, SINCE THE REACTOR WAS BEING INSTALLED SOLELY AGAINST ISRAEL."
2. INR HAS NO RECORD OF SUCH AN IRAQI DECLARATION,
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WHETHER ON THE PART OF SADDAM HUSSEIN OR ANY OTHER SENIOR OFFICIAL. THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN VERY CAREFUL TO MAINTAIN THAT ITS ACQUISITION OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY IS RELATED TO PEACEFUL PURPOSES.
3. F O R B A G H D A D: PLEASE CHECK TO DETERMINE IF SUCH A STATEMENT WAS MADE AND RESPOND SOONEST, AS WE ANTICIPATE THAT THE DEPARTMENT MAY BE QUERIED ON THIS POINT.
4. F O R T E L A V I V: PLEASE ASK GOI FOR SPECIFIC TEXT OF ALLEGED REMARKS AND DATE ON WHICH THEY WERE MADE. CLARK
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